Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid, comprising the steps of:

allowing α-isomaltosyl glucosaccharide-forming enzyme together with or without cyclomaltodextrin glucanotransferase (EC 2.4.1.19) to act on a solution comprising L-ascorbic acid and α-glucosyl saccharide to form 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl L-ascorbic acid; and

collecting the formed 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl L-ascorbic acid from the resulting reaction mixture;

wherein said α-isomaltosyl glucosaccharide-forming enzyme has an activity of forming a saccharide with a degree of glucose polymerization of 3 or higher and bearing both an α-1,6 glucosidic linkage as a linkage at the non-reducing end and an α-1,4 glucosidic linkage other than the linkage at the non-reducing end from a saccharide with a degree of glucose polymerization of 2 or higher and bearing an α-1,4 glucosidic linkage as a linkage at the non-reducing end by α-glucosyl-transferring reaction without substantially increasing the reducing power of the reaction mixture.

2. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein glucoamylase (EC 3.2.1.3) is allowed to act on the reaction mixture after the action of α-isomaltosyl glucosaccharide-forming enzyme on said solution together with or without cyclomalodextrin glucanotransferase.

3. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, ~~where 5-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid and 6-O-α-glucopyranosyl- L-ascrobic acid are not formed or are formed in such a small amount that they can not be detected in the step of forming 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid~~ wherein the reaction mixture contains, on a dry solid basis, 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid in an amount of 10% (w/w) or higher; and each of 5-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid and 6-O-α-glucopyranosyl- L-ascorbic acid is present in an amount of less than 0.1% (w/w).

4. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein said α-glucosyl saccharide is one or more saccharide selected from the group consisting of maltoolgosaccharide, maltodextrin, cyclodextrin, amylose, amylopectin, soluble starch, liquefied starch, gelatinized starch, and glycogen.

Claim 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the step of collecting 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid comprises a step of using a strongly-acidic cation exchange resin~~, and optionally further comprises a step of pulverizing or crystallizing~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, ~~where~~ wherein the formed 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid is collected in a form of syrup, powder, or crystal~~in its collecting~~.

Claims 8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 2, wherein said α-glucosyl saccharide is one or more ~~saccharide~~ saccharides selected from the group consisting of maltoolgosaccharide, maltodextrin, cyclodextrin, amylose, amylopectin, soluble starch, liquefied starch, gelatinized starch, and glycogen.

11. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 10, ~~where~~ wherein the reaction mixture contains, on a dry slid basis, 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid in an amount of 10% (w/w) ~~w/w%~~ or higher; and each of 5-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid is present and 6-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid in an amount of less than 0.1% (w/w) ~~w/w%~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 11, wherein the step of collecting 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid comprises a step of using a strongly-acidic cation exchange resin~~, and optionally further comprises a step of pulverizing or crystallizing~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 12, ~~where~~ wherein the formed 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid is collected in a form of syrup, powder, or crystal~~ in its collecting~~.

14. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 3, wherein said α-glucosyl saccharide is one or more saccharide selected from the group consisting of maltoolgosaccharide, maltodextrin, cyclodextrin, amylose, amylopectin, soluble starch, liquefied starch, gelatinized starch, and glycogen.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 14 ~~15~~, wherein the step of collecting 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid comprises a step of using a strongly-acidic cation exchange resin~~, and optionally further comprises a step of pulverizing or crystallizing~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 16, ~~where~~ wherein the formed 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid is collected in a form of syrup, powder, or crystal ~~in its collecting~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 2, ~~where 5-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid and 6-O-α-glucopyranosyl- L-ascorbic acid are not formed or are formed in such a small amount that they can not be detected in the step of forming 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid~~ wherein the reaction mixture contains, on a dry slid basis, 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid in an amount of 10% (w/w) or higher; and each of 5-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid and 6-O-α-glucopyranosyl- L-ascorbic acid is present in an amount of less than 0.1% (w/w).

19. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 18, wherein said α-glucosyl saccharide is one or more saccharide selected from the group consisting of maltoolgosaccharide, maltodextrin, cyclodextrin, amylose, amylopectin, soluble starch, liquefied starch, gelatinized starch, and glycogen.

Claim 20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) The process of claim 6 further comprising pulverizing or crystallizing the 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid.

22. (New) The process of claim further comprising pulverizing or crystallizing the 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid.

23. (New) The process of claim 14 further comprising pulverizing or crystallizing the 2-O-α-glucopyranosyl-L-ascorbic acid.